

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method for sterilizing a device, includes the following steps: contacting the
device with liquid sterilant outside or inside a sterilization chamber at a first pressure,
placing the device in the chamber before or after the contacting step, and decreasing the
pressure of the chamber to a second pressure below the vapor pressure of the liquid
sterilant. At least the decrease in pressure below about the vapor pressure of the liquid
sterilant occurs at a pumpdown rate of less than 0.8 liters per second, calculated based
on the time required to evacuate the chamber from atmospheric pressure to 20 torr when
10 the chamber is empty and dry.